

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 02298 251510 Z

45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01

/081 W

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R 251450 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1650

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 2298

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, TS

SUBJECT: ILLNESS INTERRUPTS BOURGUIBA' S VISIT TO SOUSSE

REF: TUNIS 1909

1. PRESS HAS REPORTED APRIL 23 AND APRIL 24 THAT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA INTERRUPTED HIS VISIT TO SOUSSE GOVERNORATE BECAUSE OF ILLNESS. PRESS HAS STRESSED ON BOTH DAYS THAT ILLNESS NOT SERIOUS, AND BOURGUIBA HAS GONE OUT OF WAY TO REASSURE TUNISIANS ON STATE OF HIS HEALTH. PRESS DESCRIBES ILLNESS ONLY AS INFLAMMATION OF THROAT WHICH LED IN TURN TO " SLIGHT NASAL OBSTRUCTION". BOURGUIBA DEPARTED SOUSSE FOR OASIS TOWN OF NEFTA WHERE HE REPORTEDLY WILL REMAIN ABOUT A WEEK. PRESS REPORTS THAT HE WILL THEN RESUME VISITS TO GOVERNORATES OF LE KEF AND KASSERINE (REFTEL) " IF HIS HEALTH CONDITION PERMITS".

2. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE AT MOMENT THAT BOURGUIBA' S ILLNESS ANYTHING MORE SERIOUS THAN OFFICIAL PRESS REPORTS. WE HAVE NEVERTHELESS HAD IMPRESSION IN PAST FEW MONTHS THAT BOURGUIBA HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY MORE ACTIVE PHYSICALLY THAN PREVIOUSLY, AND MAY WELL HAVE BEEN OVERDOING IT A BIT. SEELYE

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: golinofr
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30 JUN 2005

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